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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Supplemental estimates of appropriations for preventing the spread of the European corn borer, fiscal year 1930.

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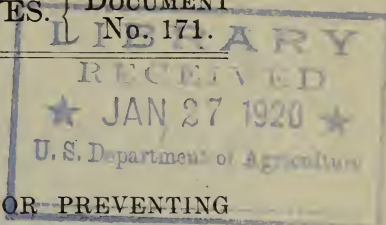
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66th CONGRESS, }  
1st Session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { DOCUMENT  
No. 171.



SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION FOR PREVENTING  
THE SPREAD OF EUROPEAN CORN BORER, 1920.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SUB-  
MITTING A SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION  
REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PRE-  
VENTING THE SPREAD OF THE EUROPEAN CORN BORER, FISCAL  
YEAR 1920.

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AUGUST 1, 1919.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be  
printed.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, July 30, 1919.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress copy of a communication from the Secretary of Agriculture of the 29th instant, submitting a supplemental estimate of appropriation, in the sum of \$500,000, required by the Department of Agriculture for preventing the spread of the European corn borer, fiscal year 1920.

The necessity for the appropriation and the reasons for the submission of the estimate at this time are fully set forth in the letter of the Secretary of Agriculture herewith.

Respectfully,

CARTER GLASS, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, July 29, 1919.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith an estimate of an additional appropriation required by this department to meet the emergency caused by the unexpected spread in Massachusetts of the European corn borer. For this item the following wording is suggested:

To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to meet the emergency caused by the very recent and sudden spread of the European corn borer in Massachusetts and New York, and to provide means for the control and prevention of spread of this insect in these States and to others of the United States, in cooperation with the States concerned, including employment of persons and means in the city of Washington and elsewhere, and all other necessary expenses, \$500,000, which shall be immediately available.

The current Agricultural appropriation act carries an appropriation of \$250,000 for the purpose of controlling the spread of this insect, but this amount was not available until July 24. In the meantime the State of Massachusetts had appropriated the sum of \$120,000 and the State of New York the sum of \$100,000, and the campaign against the insect during the spring was carried on under these appropriations. The work in New York has been conducted by the State department of agriculture and that in Massachusetts jointly by the State department of agriculture and by the officers of this department, although the entire direction of the work in the latter case has been voluntarily relinquished by the State officers to the Bureau of Entomology of this department.

When the Agricultural appropriation bill was under consideration at the last session of Congress I recommended that the sum of \$500,000 be made available to the department for this purpose, but Congress provided only \$250,000. It seems clear that, without regard to the recent unexpected developments in the spread of the insect, the entire \$250,000 would have to be expended, in order to secure the best results, in the autumn months, leaving no funds for the prosecution of the work during the remainder of the fiscal year.

At the time the original estimate was made the European corn borer, so far as our information went—and it was based upon thorough scouting by competent experts—was well established in an area of some 500 square miles in eastern Massachusetts, and it was along the outer boundary of this area that the remedial work was carried on during the spring under the State appropriations. The insect passes the winter in the caterpillar condition in the stalks of corn and many other plants. With the coming of warm weather in the early part of the present summer the adult moths issued in considerable numbers from plants which the State work had not been able to reach and spread north and south and to some extent to the west beyond the limits originally mapped. It now appears that eggs have been laid and that the insect occurs in dangerous numbers over more than twice the area which it was known to inhabit four months ago. It has reached the New Hampshire line on the north and has spread south to the towns of Marshfield and Brockton and west into the towns of Lincoln and Wayland.

This situation adds greatly to the danger of rapid distribution and necessitates much larger expenditures than were anticipated even in the department's original estimate of \$500,000 which Congress re-

duced to \$250,000. It becomes vitally important to carry on during the coming autumn large-scale exterminative work along the entire border of spread in order to reduce, so far as possible, the changes of still greater spread during the late spring of 1920.

The intensive investigations which have been made by the Bureau of Entomology have failed, up to the present time, to result in economical remedies applicable during the growing season, but the studies of the life history of the insect that have been made indicate that it can be destroyed during the autumn and the spring, and during the winter as well in the absence of heavy snows, by the mechanical destruction of the stalks of plants that harbor the hibernating larvæ; and it is upon this fact that the campaign of the coming months is planned.

The work will be carried on with the hearty cooperation of the States vitally interested—New York and Massachusetts—as previously stated, having already made large appropriations, and both States promise further financial aid. Seriously affecting as it does so important a crop as corn, a westward spread of this insect would result in enormous losses, and practically every State in the Union is interested in the restriction of its further distribution and in the efforts which will be made greatly to reduce its numbers in the regions already invaded.

Remedial work is complicated by the fact that, although corn seems to be the preferred food plant of the insect, it also attacks many other plants, and measures intended to reduce its numbers thus can not be confined to cornfields. In this respect it is a more dangerous species and a more difficult one to fight than a one-crop insect, like the cotton-boll weevil, for example.

Respectfully,

D. F. HOUSTON,  
*Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

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*Supplemental estimate of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, by the Department of Agriculture.*

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY.

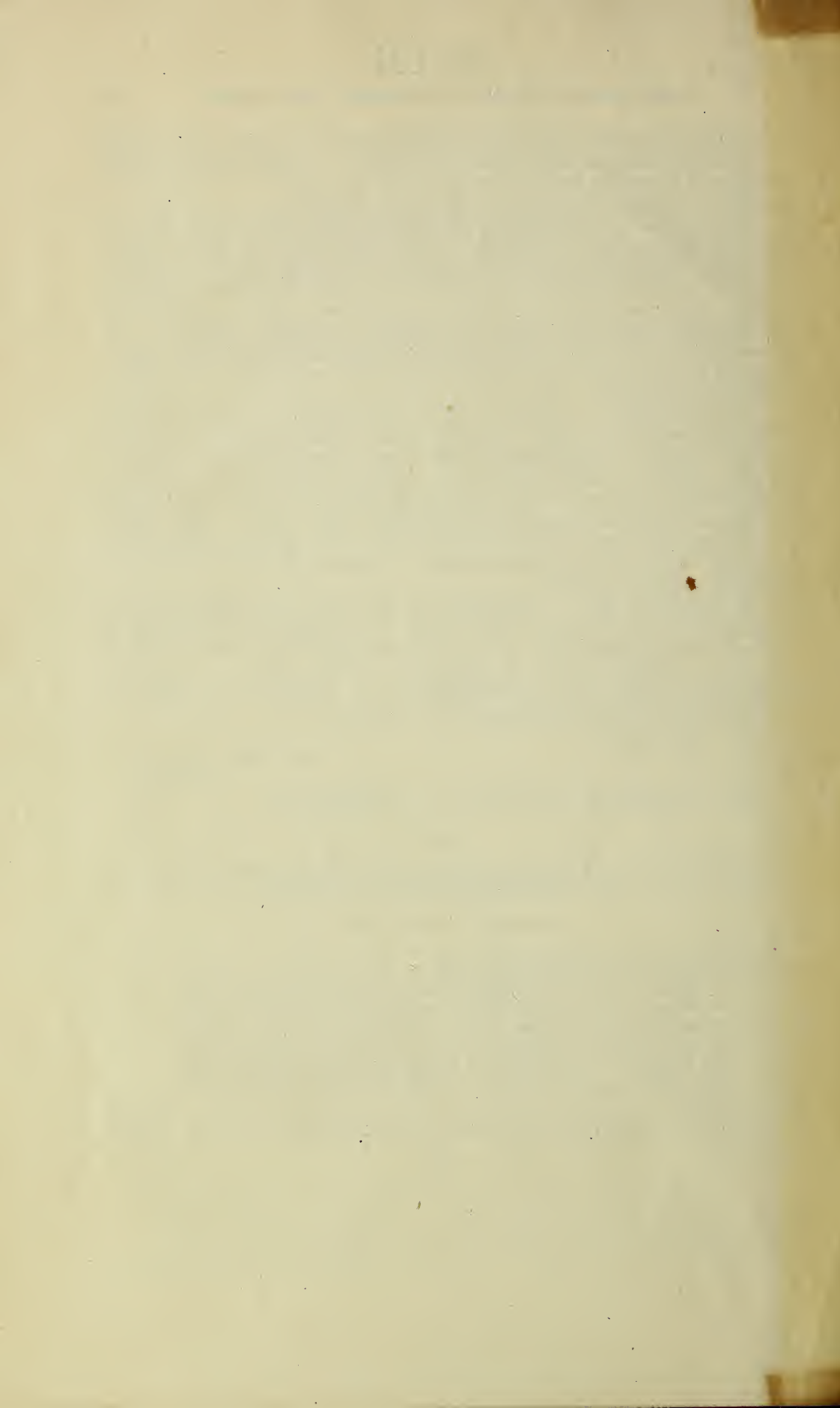
*Prevention of spread of European corn borer:*

To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to meet the emergency caused by the very recent and sudden spread of the European corn borer in Massachusetts and New York, and to provide means for the control and prevention of spread of this insect in these States and to others of the United States, in cooperation with the States concerned including employment of persons and means in the city of Washington and elsewhere, and all other necessary expenses, \$500,000, which shall be immediately available (act July 24, 1919, vol. 41, sec. 1 (Public act 22)).....

\$500,000

Amount appropriated for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1920.. 250,000







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